

TOWN OF IPSWICH
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectman
Tuesday March 5, 2013
Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectman was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in room C of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Elizabeth Kilcoyne, Charles Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Brenda Turner, Linda Alexson, David Swicker, Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Police Chief Paul Nikas was not present.

Ms. Kilcoyne initiated discussion regarding scheduling conflicts and televised meetings. It was decided that no meeting will take place unless it can be televised.

Citizen's Queries – James Geanakakis was present and asked that something be done about the lines between Essex and Ipswich; he suggested the markers height be raised to six feet so they can be seen at high tide. After a discussion concerning enforcement, sand shifting and changing location of flats, it was determined that Mr. LaPreste will contact Mr. Geanakakis and invite him to the meeting in May when Dave Roach is present to address this issue.

Shellfish Constable's Report - Constable LaPreste reported that the river opened in January and is expected to stay open until April; this has been its normal pattern. He reported the availability of federal funding for storm water runoff to test the river. Testing will resume in dry weather.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding process of pulling up the nets; timing was discussed, notification to clambers, concerns were expressed regarding the attitude of some clambers, in that, once the nets are up, the flats are dug out. Options were considered, such as, developing a clam nursery, enforcement, signage, closing public aquaculture areas for twelve years.

Constable LaPreste stated that no studies have shown that nets provide seed to the natural environment. He opined that it is a combination of variables that are unknown to us and he expressed his support for leaving the nets down.

Discussion continued regarding areas that were seeded and produced and other areas seeded with no results.

► The Committee agreed that a regional meeting will be scheduled for May 7, 2013; Dave Roach and constables from neighboring towns will be invited to discuss the subject of seeding.

Constable reported that twenty people did not renew their licenses; 105 renewed, 12 applied and 117 permits were issued. The lottery was conducted but, the applications were down. Discussion was held regarding the lottery process and extending application deadline to the end of January. It was suggested to continue this discussion on a future agenda.

Constable reported that there were no student applications. The Enhancement Tasks were nearly one hundred percent completed.

Discussion took place regarding student permits; changing the deadline was contemplated. It was agreed further discussion would continue on a future agenda. No action was taken.

Constable reported that Green Crab activity is nil, he anticipates it will pick up next month. Clam seed (200,000) has been order from Cat Cove (\$16 per 1000). Netting supply is good; budget was discussed. No action was taken.

Sea Clams

Mr. Swicker initiated discussion regarding sea clams. The State regulates sea clams; a specific state permit is required to harvest commercially. If, the Town permitted licenses to harvest, every person with a clam permit in the State would be allowed to harvest in Ipswich. No action was taken.

The Rules and Regulations

Lengthy discussion was held regarding edits to the Rules and Regulations. Terminology was defined. The Committee agreed to add 'cannot go out one-half hour before sunrise' after.... 'no later than one-half hour after sunset' and to add-on 'year round'.

The Committee agreed to consider 'out of state' licensing (currently not permitted).

Constable LaPreste clarified the meaning of 'dispose' when the legal limit exceeds the two bushel limit. He explained that he prefers to re-plant the clams or sell them on the behalf of the Town with his transaction card.

It was clarified that the deputy constables are appointed and are authorized to take action, same as the Constable. The wording for the drawing of the lottery was discussed and it was determined that it will remain the same.

It was agreed that review of the Rules and Regulations will be on future agendas for discussion and possible edits.

New Business:

At the request of Ms. Kilcoyne, Mr. Surpitski agreed to Chair the April 2, 2013 meeting.

Next Meeting –Tuesday, April 2, 2013 @ 7:30 PM

Approval of Minutes

► **Mr. Castonguay moved to accept the minutes of January 8, 2013 as revised. Ms. Alexson seconded, the motion passed unanimously.**

(hereby incorporated by reference January 8, 2013 minutes.)

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved with minor edits on April 2, 2013.